AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A temporary absorbable venous occlusive stent, comprising:

a stent body having a proximal ~~portion~~ end and a distal ~~portion~~end, said stent body being generally cylindrical such that said proximal end and said distal end have a similar cross-sectional size;

a bio-absorbable material associated with said stent body; and

bio-absorbable means for (1) bidirectionally blocking blood flow past said stent when said means is implanted in a vein and in a closed configuration, and (2) permitting blood flow through said stent when said means is implanted in a vein and in an open configuration ~~implanted in a vein~~, at least a portion of said bio-absorbable means disposed at the proximal ~~portion~~end, the distal ~~portion~~end, or at a location between the proximal ~~portion~~ end and the distal ~~portion~~end;

wherein the cross-sectional size of said stent body at said bio-absorbable means is the same when said means is in the open configuration and when said means is in the closed configuration.

2. (Original) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said stent body is generally tubular.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said bio-absorbable material is provided by a material used to form said stent body.

5. (Original) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said bio-absorbable material comprises polylactic acid.

6. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said bio-absorbable means comprises a drawstring closure system at one end of said stent body.

7. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said bio-absorbable means comprises a drawstring closure system having a pair of drawstring ends.

8. (Withdrawn) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said closure means comprises a closed end wall associated with said body.

9. (Withdrawn) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said closure means comprises a closed end wall mounted on said body.

10. (Withdrawn) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said closure means is provided by said stent body having a generally solid interior portion.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for treating a varicose vein, comprising:

introducing a temporary absorbable venous occlusive stent to an implantation site proximate to or above a varicose vein to be treated, said stent comprising:

a stent body;

a bio-absorbable material associated with said body; and

closure means for blocking blood flow past said stent when implanted in a vein;

deploying said stent against a vein wall at said implantation site so as to block blood flow past said stent; and

allowing said stent to form a blockage at said implantation site as said stent is absorbed.

12. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is introduced via a deep venous system approach.

13. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is introduced via cephalic vein approach.

14. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is introduced via a superficial venous system approach.

15. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is introduced via a sheath introducer.

16. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is introduced via a sheath introducer and a guide wire.

17. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is introduced by way of magnetic guidance.

18. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is deployed using a balloon catheter.

19. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 11 wherein said stent is deployed using a balloon catheter and manipulation of said closure means.

20. (Currently Amended) A temporary absorbable venous occlusive stent, comprising:

a stent body comprising a bio-absorbable material, said stent body being generally cylindrical such that a proximal end and a distal end of said stent body have a similar cross-sectional size; and

an adjustable bio-absorbable closure device associated with said stent body, said adjustable bio-absorbable closure device comprising:

an open configuration in which said bio-absorbable closure device permits blood flow through ~~past~~ said stent body while implanted in a vein; and

a blocking configuration in which said bio-absorbable closure device forms a wall that blocks blood flow bidirectionally past said stent body while implanted in a vein;

wherein the cross-sectional size of said stent body at said closure device is the same when said closure device is in the open configuration and when said closure device is in the blocking configuration.

21. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 20 wherein said stent body is generally tubular.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 20 wherein said bio-absorbable material is provided by a material used to form said stent body.

24. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 20 wherein said bio-absorbable material comprises polylactic acid.

25. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 20 wherein said closure device comprises a drawstring closure system at one end of said stent body.

26. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 20 wherein said closure device comprises a drawstring closure system having a pair of drawstring ends.

27. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 20 wherein said closure device in the blocking configuration blocks blood flow sufficiently to induce clotting and fibrosis.

28. (Currently Amended) A stent in accordance with claim 1 wherein said means blocks blood flow to a degree sufficient to induce clotting and fibrosis at an implantation site of said stent body when in the closed configuration.

29. (Currently Amended) A temporary absorbable stent for substantially completely occluding a vein, comprising:

a bioabsorbable stent body having a proximal end and a distal end and a lumen therebetween, said stent body being generally cylindrical such that said proximal end and said distal end have a similar cross-sectional size;

a non-filtering, continuous side wall defining the lumen of the body and substantially conformable to the wall of the vein to substantially completely block the flow of blood through the side wall and into the lumen; and

a non-filtering bio-absorbable blocking wall disposed on the body at either the proximal end or the distal end of the body, or at a location therebetween;[[,]]

said blocking wall being adjustable and having an open configuration in which said blocking wall permits blood flow through said stent body lumen, and a blocking configuration in which said blocking wall blocks blood flow bidirectionally through said stent body lumen;~~to substantially completely block the flow of blood through the lumen~~

wherein the cross-sectional size of said stent body at said blocking wall is the same when said blocking wall is in the open configuration and when said blocking wall is in the blocking configuration.

30. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 29 wherein said bio-absorbable stent body comprises polylactic acid.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 29 wherein said non-filtering blocking wall comprises a drawstring closure system.

33. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 29 wherein said non-filtering blocking wall is disposed at the proximal end of the body.

34. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 29 wherein said non-filtering blocking wall is disposed at the distal end of the body.

35. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 29 wherein said non-filtering blocking wall is disposed between the proximal end and the distal end of the body.

36. (Currently Amended) A stent in accordance with claim 29 wherein said non-filtering blocking wall blocks blood flow sufficiently to induce clotting and fibrosis when in the blocking configuration.

37. (Currently Amended) A temporary absorbable stent for substantially completely occluding a vein, comprising:

a body having a side wall comprising a bio-absorbable material, the ~~side wall~~body having a having a proximal ~~portion~~ end and a distal ~~portion~~end, the side wall defining a lumen extending between the proximal ~~portion~~ end and the distal ~~portion~~end, the side wall being substantially conformable to a vein wall;

the body being generally tubular wherein the proximal end and the distal end have a similar cross-sectional size; and

an adjustable bio-absorbable blocking wall coupled with the side wall and configurable from an open configuration to a closed configuration to block blood flow bidirectionally and to a degree sufficient to induce clotting and fibrosis at an implantation site of the body;

wherein the cross-sectional size of said body at said blocking wall is the same when said blocking wall is in the open configuration and when said blocking wall is in the closed configuration.

38. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 37 wherein said bio-absorbable material comprises polylactic acid.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) A stent in accordance with claim 37 wherein said adjustable blocking wall comprises a drawstring closure system.